Allergy and Environmental Health Association
(Ottawa Branch)

343 Roxdale Ave.
Orleans, Ont.
K1E 1T9

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Dear Mr. Dwyer,

It has come to my attention that you may believe there are no serious human rights abuses taking place against people with environmental sensitivities because you have heard only from Chris Brown on this issue.

Let it be known that many people with sensitivities have suffered serious damages as a result of abuse by persons in positions of authority, including, but certainly not limited to people within the Canadian and provincial Human Rights Commissions.

People who are severely disabled by environmental sensitivities are frequently in a position of having to fight for survival. They do not have the time and energy to engage in something which is perceived to be as fruitless as an appeal to the Human Rights Commission. A few years ago, Chris Brown encouraged people to come forward with complaints to the Commission. The few who considered it were rather quickly disillusioned that the Commission would be of any help, and those who were "bull-headed" enough to persist found that the Commission was quite capable of encouraging continuation of the abuse they were experiencing. Apparently position statements by present and former Chief Commissioners of the Human Rights Commissions, nationally and provincially, are not ones held by their staff.

Leadership of people with environmental sensitivities consists mainly of people who are dedicated and committed, but who are very burnt out from attempting to cope with their own disability, the current general lack of accommodation of their own disability, and from the emotional and physical drains of hearing tragic appeals from members in desperate circumstances for which these leaders have little in the way of hope or possible recourse to

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suggest. To date the evidence has suggested that we would be doing a serious disservice to recommend that precious energy (the member's own or the leadership's) be devoted to putting forward complaints to the commission.

I hope this disabuses you of the notion that there is no problem. When even Chris Brown who has devoted his life to trying to get justice done is unable to be heard, you can be quite sure that desperate people are going to focus on survival methods which are more practical than spending years persisting in a process in which they are further discredited and emotionally abused.

Yours,

Leslirae Rotor

Leslirae Rotor
National Capital Region Director
Allergy & Environmental Health Association of Canada